

The Chair, Lloyd Sullivan at 7:00pm called the regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting to order. Those present included Jenifer Landman, George Lagassa (Selectman) and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

Questions & Comments

Mr. Sullivan called attention to the new flags, poles and stands located in the corners of the meeting room. Mr. Sullivan noted that the additions were gifts presented by Mr. John Simmons in memory of his late grandparents.

Mr. Joe Arena spoke to the issue of the coalition communities. He noted that he had attended several meetings on the issue in nearby towns. He urged North Hampton residents to fight the new statewide property tax. Mr. Arena characterized that tax as burdensome and unnecessary. What was needed to repeal the onerous tax was a grass roots approach.

Police Chief Brian Page introduced Mr. Jim Russell as the newest police officer. Mr. Russell was introduced to the Board and welcomed by those in attendance.

Taxation Issues

Allen Hines

Mr. Hines addressed the Board regarding the issue of elderly exemptions. He noted that the current North Hampton exemption schedule was rather miserly. (see table below)

Age	Exemption Amount	Income Limit	Asset Limit
65-74	40,000	S =13,400 / M =20,400	35,000
75-79	60,000	S =13,400 / M =20,400	35,000
80 +	80,000	S =13,400 / M =20,400	35,000

S=Single **M=Married**

Mr. Hines pointed out that surrounding seacoast towns had adopted slightly higher exemption amounts, but that the real difference was in the income and asset limitations adopted by other Towns. For example Rye's asset limit (excluding residence) was \$199,000 and the income limit for single applicants was \$35,000. Mr. Hines noted that North Hampton's current income and asset limitations made it all but impossible for seniors to stay in their homes that many seniors had occupied for most of their lives. He urged the Board to consider a warrant article squarely addressing the issue of income and asset limitations and exemption amounts. Mr. Lagassa agreed and made a motion to have Mr. Hines move forward with researching the issue of elderly exemptions in preparation for a warrant article for this year's Town Meeting. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Emergency Preparedness Briefing

Police Chief Brian Page

Mr. Page addressed those present by explaining that the North Hampton Police Department in conjunction with other seacoast towns worked cooperatively. A member of the North Hampton Police Department was part of the Seacoast Response Team that trained for terrorist and hostage type situations. The previous year members from the department, as well as members of other seacoast departments participated in a region wide terrorist training exercise (TOPOF) that addressed such issues as evacuation, mass casualties, communication procedures and bioterrorist response techniques.

Fire Chief Thomas Lambert

Mr. Lambert noted that he was the Emergency Management Officer for the Town. It was explained that the current meeting room was also the Emergency Operations Center. Because of the proximity of the Seabrook Nuclear Facility annual graded exercises were required. The purpose of the exercises was to test the established emergency procedures and to train personnel in those procedures. Elements of the emergency plan included traffic control, evacuation, sheltering, communications, emergency medical and hazardous material response. The Town worked in conjunction with the State and surrounding communities to coordinate region wide response to emergencies. The department also participated in the previous year's terrorist training exercise. Mr. Lambert also noted that a member of the department was also a member of the seacoast HAZMAT (STRRT) Response Team. It was noted that the team utilized early detection anthrax kits. It was explained that emergency procedures that had been developed throughout the years because of the Town's proximity to the nuclear facility provided a higher degree of preparedness for the Town than what would ordinarily be the case. It was explained that mail-handling guidelines had been issued to employees and that key personnel are now utilizing wireless phones as a means of improving communications.

Selectmen Issues

Town Parking Ordinance & Birch Road Parking Ordinance

It was noted that this was the third meeting at which the proposed (Birch Road) and revised town parking ordinances had been discussed. Mr. Sullivan asked if the public had any comment on the changes. None was received. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to officially adopt the new and revised parking ordinances. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. (A brief outline of the proposed parking ordinances is provided below.)

Revisions to Town Parking Ordinances

It was noted that the Town was updating its parking ordinance. It was noted that the hours of the winter parking ban were being changed from midnight to 7:00am to midnight to 6:00am. The other change recommended for revision concerned the dollar amount of the fine. The proposed change in the amount of the fine was to move from a \$10 fine to a fine amount that ranged from a minimum of \$10 not to exceed \$50.

Birch Road Parking Ordinance

Mr. Page next addressed the issue of the new parking ordinance proposed, at the planning board's request, for Birch Road. The highlights of the ordinance included:

- No parking on the westerly side of Birch Road beginning at North Road to an area approximately 1,000' south of the Evergreen Drive.
- No parking on the easterly side of Birch Road beginning at the intersection of Evergreen Drive to an area approximately 1,000' north of the North Road intersection.
- Fines for violations shall not be less than \$10 and shall not exceed \$50.

Budget Review

Fire

The total proposed budget for fiscal year 2002-2003 is \$767,052, which represents an increase of 5%, or \$37,833 above last year's budget. The largest components of the increase (\$27,645) are associated with salaries, FICA, health benefits, overtime, and retirement. Increases in equipment costs (\$7,748) associated with the purchase of backboards, SCBA's, protective clothing, chainsaw (for the forestry vehicle) and telephone radio recorder represent all but \$2,400 of the increase. The TA noted that the costs for health benefits had yet to be determined by the Health Trust.

Budget Review

Police

The Board next reviewed the police department budget. The total proposed budget for fiscal year 2002-2003 is \$688,680, which represents a 7% increase above last year's budget. The total dollar increase is \$45,546. The largest components of the increase (\$41,771) are associated with salaries, FICA, health benefits, overtime, and retirement.

Budget Review

Recreation

The Board also reviewed the Recreation Department budget. The total proposed budget for fiscal year 2002-2003 is \$97,154, which represents a 12% increase above last year's budget. The total dollar increase is \$10,679. The largest components of the increase (\$9,805) are associated with salaries, FICA, health benefits, and retirement. The largest increase was for part time salaries. Ms. DeFelice explained that the number of participants within the summer recreation program has increased substantially and she expects the trend to continue. Therefore, Ms. DeFelice recommended additional staffing levels for the summer program to insure adequate levels of supervision for the children. The Board commended Ms. DeFelice for her excellent work.

Mr. Simmons queried the Board about whether or not they had decided to adopt a policy to commence the Board of Selectmen meetings with the "Pledge of Allegiance". Mr. Lagassa suggested that rather than establish a policy for the BoS and all other Boards it was his recommendation that the decision be left to the discretion of the Chair. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to grant discretion to the Chair to initiate the "Pledge of Allegiance" at the Chair's discretion for as long as he wants. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Mr. Sullivan made note of a letter of resignation he received from Bill Carlson (RPC representation). Mr. Sullivan queried Board members about reimbursement expenses for Mike Iafolla for time associated with his recent court testimony. Other Board members did not think that reimbursement was appropriate.

Mr. Sullivan addressed the issue of Mr. Joe Arena's request for \$1,500 to support the Coalition Communities effort to fight the statewide property tax. Mr. Sullivan made the motion to approve the funding request. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The Board briefly discussed the need for establishing a complaint and sign usage policy (town sign located in front of Public Safety Complex). Members agreed to draft language and review each other's work.

Mr. Sullivan next addressed the request of Planning Board Chair Laura Simmons to review the list of candidates and conduct the interviews. Ms. Landman made the motion to not allow the request. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion noting that the Board of Selectmen had sole purview of hiring and firing employees. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The TA asked if the Board would approve the settlement agreement with Glenn Martin regarding a refund of property taxes in the amount of \$8,001.40. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to approve the agreement. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Administration/Business

Ms. Landman made the motion to accept the regular minutes of October 9th & 17th, 2001. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The Board reviewed

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- a. Minutes - October 9th & 17th 2001
- b. Payroll
- c. Manifest
- d. CDBG Manifest
- e. CDBG (Lamprey Grant) Signatures
- f. Kokernak Land Swap (Approved at Town Meeting)
- g. **Peter Loughlin – Proposed Motion to carry out enforcement action – Giant Lift site plan compliance.**

The Board reviewed correspondence from Peter Loughlin requesting Board approval for initiating enforcement actions associated with 185 Lafayette Road. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to "Move that the Board of Selectmen authorize Attorney Peter Loughlin to proceed with any and all enforcement actions necessary including the filing of a petition in the Rockingham County Superior Court to cause Giant Lift of 185 Lafayette Road, to comply with the site plan approval granted by the North Hampton Planning Board." Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. Ms. Landman abstained. The motion carried with Messrs. Sullivan & Lagassa voting in the affirmative and Ms. Landman abstaining.

- h. Executive Council Newsletter
- i. Rockingham County Nursing Home
- j. RPC – 10 year Transportation Plan
- k. Rose Inglis – Complaint
- l. County Tax

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting Mr.. Lagassa made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The public meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00pm. Ms. Landman made the motion to convene in non-public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss personnel issues. Mr.. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was approved by unanimous consent and so moved.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator